

SCIENTIFIC RESULTS FROM THE MAMMAL SURVEY.

No. XVII.

(A).—THE SHAN STATES LANGUR.—A CORRECTION.

BY

R. C. WROUGHTON.

In the last number of this Journal (p. 46) I described a series of langurs obtained by our Survey in the Shan States. I took (and gave) much trouble, in making sure that the species could not be *barbei*, Blyth, and concluded to give it the name *shanicus*. I regret to say that I completely overlooked a specimen in the British Museum Collection, obtained at Bhamo, by Fea, which Dr. Elliot made the type of his species *melamerus*, (A. M. N. H. S. 8, p. 267, 1909). This cannot be distinguished in any way from *shanicus*. The Shan States langur must, therefore, be known as *P. melamerus*, Elliot, with *P. shanicus*, as a synonym.

(B).—A NEW INDIAN HARE.

BY

R. C. WROUGHTON.

In connection with a summary of the results from our Mammal Survey, I have recently had to re-examine all the hares in the British Museum Collection. Among them I have found a series sufficiently distinct from the rest to deserve a name of its own.

It consists of four specimens, taken near the Sambhar Lake, in Rajputana, more than thirty years ago. These are allied by their brown-coloured scuts to *ruficaudatus*, Geoff., but their general coloration is so markedly and evenly like that of so many animals inhabiting sandy wastes, and at the same time so distinct from the coloration of all their neighbours, that it seems to me that I am justified in giving them a name. I propose to call them

LEPUS RAJPUT, sp. n.

A hare about the size of *ruficaudatus*, Geoff., or *simcovi*, Wr., but differing from both by its bright buff colouring.

General colour above "tawny olive." The individual hairs of the lower back are white at their bases (8mm.) and thereafter a band of buff (12mm.) between a black band and a black tip (each 3-5mm.). Tail coloured like the back above, white below. Face and ears coloured quite like the back, but with the usual white blaze through the eyes. The nape and limbs ochraceous. The chin and belly pure white merging gradually into the buffy flanks.

Dimensions of the type.—Hindfoot, 103mm.; ear 105mm. (The dimensions of another very similar specimen are recorded by the Collector as follows:—head and body, 462mm.; tail, 112mm.; hindfoot, 107mm.; ear, 130mm.). Skull.—condylo-basal length, 78; zygomatic breadth, 42; greatest length of nasals, 41; posterior breadth of nasals, 21; breadth of nasals anteriorly, 16; palatal foramina, 21; diastema, 24; upper molar series, 15.

Habitat.—Rajputaná. (Type from Sambhar Lake).

Type.—Adult male. B. M. No. 85, S. 1. 342. Collected by Mr. R. M. Adam and presented to the National Collection by the late Mr. A. O. Hume, I.C.S.

There seems to be no connection between *rajput* and either *dayanus* or *simcoxi*; in the coloration of its nape and scut it resembles *ruficaudatus*, of which it is possibly a desert form. The question of the exact status of the various named Indian hares is a most complex and difficult one, and I propose, for the present, to treat them all as species. Mr. Adam took three specimens of *rajput* near the Sambhar Lake, and Blanford a fourth in Alwar.